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[Name of Document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] COMPOSITE STRUCTURE BODY AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING THEREOF

[What is claimed is:]

1. A structure body in which the crystals of such brittle materials as ceramics, metalloids, and the like, and the crystals and/or the microstructures of the brittle materials other than said brittle materials are dispersed, characterized in that: the portion composed of the crystals of said brittle materials is polycrystalline; the polycrystalline portion substantially lacks the crystalline orientation; and substantially no boundary layer composed of a glassy substance is present in the boundary face.
2. A composite structure body in which on the surface of a substrate is formed the structure body in which the crystals of such brittle materials as ceramics, metalloids, and the like, and the crystals and/or the microstructures of the brittle materials other than said brittle materials are dispersed, characterized in that: a part of said structure body becomes an anchor portion biting the substrate surface; the portion composed of the crystals of said brittle materials is polycrystalline; the polycrystalline portion substantially lacks the crystalline orientation; and substantially no boundary layer composed of a glassy substance is present in the boundary face.
3. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that the crystals constituting said polycrystalline portion is not accompanied by the thermal grain growth.
4. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that in said polycrystalline portion the average crystallite size is 500 nm or less and the denseness degree of the composite structure body is 70% or more.
5. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that in said polycrystalline portion the average crystallite size is 100 nm or less and the denseness degree of the composite structure body is 95% or more.
6. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that in said polycrystalline portion the average crystallite size is 50 nm or less and the denseness degree of the composite structure body is 99% or more.
7. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that the crystals constituting said polycrystalline portion are 2.0 or less in aspect ratio.
8. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that the elements other

than the main metal element constituting the crystals are not segregated in the boundary face between the crystals constituting said polycrystalline portion.

9. The composite structure body according to claim 2, characterized in that there is nonstoichiometric deficient portion in the vicinity of the boundary face between the crystals constituting said structure body.

10. The composite structure body according to claim 9, characterized in that at least one type of said crystals is of the metal oxide, and said nonstoichiometric deficient portion displays the nonstoichiometric characteristic on the basis of the oxygen deficiency in said metal oxide.

11. The composite structure body according to any of claims 2 to 10, characterized in that said substrate is glass, a metal, a metalloid, a metalloid, a ceramic, or an organic compound.

12. A method for manufacturing a composite structure body, characterized in that: by bombarding the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials separately or simultaneously against the surface of a substrate with high velocities, the anchor portion biting said substrate surface is formed; the fine particles of said more than one types of brittle materials are simultaneously distorted or fractured by the bombardment impact; the mutual rejoining of the brittle material fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and there is formed the structure in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the more than one types of brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

13. A method for manufacturing a composite structure body, characterized in that: composite fine particles are formed by way of the process in which the surface of the fine particles of the brittle materials is coated with another brittle material; then by bombarding said composite fine particles against the surface of a substrate at a high velocity, the anchor portion biting said substrate surface is formed; said composite fine particles are simultaneously distorted and fractured by the bombardment impact; the mutual rejoining of said composite fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and there is formed the structure body in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the more than one types of brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

14. A method for manufacturing a composite structure body, characterized in that: the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials are arranged on the surface of a substrate; mechanical impact is exerted to the brittle material fine particles to form the anchor portion biting said substrate surface; simultaneously said brittle material fine particles are deformed or fractured by the mechanical impact; the mutual rejoining of said fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and

there is formed the structure body composed of the structures in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the more than one types of brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

15. A method for manufacturing a composite structure body, characterized in that: composite fine particles are formed by way of the process in which the surface of the fine particles of the brittle materials is coated with another brittle material; then said composite fine particles are arranged on the surface of a substrate; the anchor portion biting said substrate surface is formed by exerting mechanical impact to the composite fine particles; said composite fine particles are simultaneously deformed or fractured by the mechanical impact; the mutual rejoining of said composite fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and there is formed the structure body composed of the structures in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

16. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claims 12 to 15, characterized in that there is provided a process imparting the internal distortion to said brittle material fine particles or said composite fine particles, as the pre-processing of the process for forming said composite structure body.

17. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claims 12 to 15, characterized in that the manufacturing method is applied at room temperature.

18. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claims 12 to 15, characterized in that the structure control is conducted by the heat processing at the temperatures not higher than the melting point of said composite structure body, after the formation of said composite structure body.

19. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claims 12 to 15, characterized in that the manufacturing method is applied under a reduced pressure.

20. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 12 or 13, characterized in that the procedure for bombarding said brittle material fine particles or said composite fine particles against said substrate surface at a high velocity is the spray of the aerosol, in which said fine particles are dispersed in a gas, against said substrate surface at a high velocity.

21. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 12, 13 or 20, characterized in that the average particle size of said brittle material fine particles or said composite material fine particles is 0.1 to 5 μm , and the velocity of said brittle material fine

particles or said composite material fine particles is 50 to 450 m/s in the bombardment against said substrate.

22. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 12, 13 or 20, characterized in that the average particle size of said brittle material fine particles or said composite material fine particles is 0.1 to 5 μm , and the velocity of said brittle material fine particles or said composite material fine particles is 150 to 400 m/s in the bombardment against said substrate.

23. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 20, characterized in that the elemental deficient quantities in the compounds constituting the structure body composed of said brittle material is controlled by controlling the type of and/or partial pressures in said gas.

24. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 20, characterized in that the oxygen concentration in the structure body composed of said brittle material is controlled by controlling the oxygen partial pressure in said gas.

25. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 20, characterized in that oxygen deficiency layer of said oxide is formed in the vicinity of the boundary face between the crystals of the structure body composed of said brittle material by controlling said oxygen partial pressure in said gas using at least one type of brittle material composed of said brittle material fine particles and material fine particles.

26. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 20, characterized in that the electric, mechanical, chemical, optical, and magnetic characteristics of said composite structure body are controlled by controlling the type of and/or partial pressures in said gas.

27. The method for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 20, characterized in that the electric, mechanical, chemical, optical, and magnetic characteristics of said composite structure body are controlled by controlling the oxygen partial pressure in said gas.

28. A composite structure body which is obtained through the following processes: by bombarding the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials separately or simultaneously against the surface of a substrate at high velocities, the anchor portion biting said substrate surface is formed; the fine particles of said more than one types of brittle materials are simultaneously distorted or fractured by the bombardment impact; the mutual rejoining of the brittle material fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active

surface formed by the distortion or fracture; said anchor portion is formed to join; and there is formed the structure in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the brittle materials are dispersed, and thus the composite structure body is obtained.

29. A composite structure body which is obtained through the following processes: composite fine particles are formed by way of the process in which the surface of the fine particles of the brittle materials is coated with another brittle material; then by bombarding said composite fine particles against the surface of a substrate at high velocities, the anchor portion biting said substrate surface is formed; said composite fine particles are simultaneously distorted and fractured by the bombardment impact; the mutual rejoining of said composite fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and there is formed the structure body in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the more than one types of brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

30. A composite structure body which is obtained through the following processes: the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials are arranged on the surface of a substrate; mechanical impact is exerted to the brittle material fine particles to form the anchor portion biting said substrate surface; simultaneously said brittle material fine particles are deformed or fractured by the mechanical impact; the mutual rejoining of said fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and there is formed the structure body composed of the structures in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the more than one types of brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

31. A composite structure body which is obtained through the following processes: composite fine particles are formed by way of the process in which the surface of the fine particles of the brittle materials is coated with another brittle material; then said composite fine particles are arranged on the surface of a substrate; the anchor portion biting said substrate surface is formed by exerting mechanical impact to the composite fine particles; said composite fine particles are simultaneously deformed or fractured by the mechanical impact; the mutual rejoining of said composite fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture; and there is formed the structure body composed of the structure in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the brittle materials are dispersed above said anchor portion.

32. The composite structure body according to claims 28 to 31 which is formed through providing a process imparting the internal distortion to said brittle material fine particles, as the pre-processing of the process for forming said structure body.

33. The composite structure body according to claims 28 to 31, characterized in that said brittle

material fine particles are 0.1 to 5 .mu.m in average particle size.

34. The composite structure body according to claims 28 to 31, characterized in that said composite structure body is manufactured at room temperature.

35. The composite structure body according to claims 28 to 31, characterized in that the structure control is conducted by the heat processing at the temperatures not higher than the melting point of said composite structure body, after the formation of said composite structure body.

36. The composite structure body according to claims 28 to 31, characterized in that the composite structure body is manufactured under a reduced pressure.

37. The composite structure body according to claim 28 or 29, characterized in that the procedure for bombarding fine particles against said substrate surface at a high velocity is the spray of the aerosol, in which said fine particles are dispersed in a gas, against said substrate at a high velocity.

38. The composite structure body according to claim 37, characterized in that the composite structure body is obtained by controlling the elemental deficient quantities in the compounds constituting the structure body composed of said brittle material through controlling the type of and/or partial pressures in said gas.

39. The composite structure body according to claim 37, characterized in that the composite structure body is obtained by controlling the oxygen concentration in the structure body composed of said brittle material through controlling the oxygen partial pressure in said gas.

40. The composite structure body according to claim 37, characterized in that the composite structure body is obtained by forming a oxygen deficient layer of said oxides in the vicinity of the boundary face between the crystals of the structure body composed of brittle material through controlling the oxygen partial pressure in said gas using at least one type of oxides composed of said brittle material fine particles or said composite fine particles.

41. The composite structure body according to claim 37, characterized in that the composite structure body is obtained by controlling the electric, mechanical, chemical, optical, and magnetic characteristics of said composite structure body through controlling the type of and/or partial pressures in said gas.

42. The composite structure body according to claim 37, characterized in that the composite structure body is obtained by controlling the electric, mechanical, chemical, optical, and magnetic

characteristics of said composite structure body through controlling the oxygen partial pressure in said gas.

43. An apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body in which is manufactured a structure body in which by bombarding or spraying the aerosol generated through dispersing the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials in a gas against a substrate at a high velocity, the crystals and/or microstructures of said brittle materials are dispersed, characterized in that: the apparatus comprises one or more aerosol generators for generating said aerosol, one or more nozzles for spraying the aerosol, and one or more classifiers for classifying the brittle material fine particles in the aerosol.

44. An apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body in which is manufactured a structure body in which by bombarding or spraying the aerosol generated through dispersing the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials in a gas against a substrate at a high velocity, the crystals and/or microstructures of said brittle materials are dispersed, characterized in that: the apparatus comprises one or more aerosol generators for generating said aerosol, one or more nozzles for spraying the aerosol, and one or more disintegrating machines for disintegrating the agglomeration of the brittle material fine particles in the aerosol.

45. An apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body in which is manufactured a structure body in which by bombarding or spraying the aerosol generated through dispersing the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials in a gas against a substrate at a high velocity, the crystals and/or microstructures of said brittle materials are dispersed, characterized in that: the apparatus comprises one or more aerosol generators for generating said aerosol, one or more nozzles for spraying the aerosol, one or more disintegrating machines for disintegrating the agglomeration of the brittle material fine particles in the aerosol, and one or more classifiers for classifying the brittle material fine particles in the aerosol.

46. An apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body in which is manufactured a structure body, in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the brittle materials are dispersed, by bombarding or spraying against a substrate at a high velocity the aerosol generated through dispersing in a gas the composite fine particles formed by coating the surface of the fine particles of the brittle materials with a brittle material other than said brittle material fine particles, characterized in that: the apparatus comprises a coating unit which forms said composite fine particles by coating the surface of said brittle material fine particles with one or more brittle materials other than said brittle material fine particles, an aerosol generator for generating said aerosol, and a nozzle for spraying said aerosol.

47. The apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claim 46, characterized in that the apparatus comprises, between said aerosol generator and said nozzle,

a disintegrating machine for disintegrating the agglomeration of said composite fine particles in said aerosol and/or a classifier for classifying said composite fine particles in said aerosol.

48. The apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body according to claims 43 to 47, characterized in that the apparatus comprises a distortion imparting unit which impresses the internal distortion to said brittle material fine particles or said composite fine particles.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Technical Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a structure body composed of more than one types of brittle materials such as ceramics and metalloids, a composite structure body formed on a substrate from the structure body, and a method and an apparatus for manufacturing thereof.

The structure body and composite structure body involved in the present invention can be applied to, for example, a nanocomposite magnet, a magnetic refrigerator element, an abrasion resistant surface coat, a higher-order structure piezoelectric element composed of a mixture of piezoelectric materials different in frequency response property, a heating element, a higher-order structure dielectric displaying the characteristics over a wide range of temperature, a photocatalyst material and the induction material thereof, a functional surface coat composed of a mixture of materials having such properties as the water holding property, hydrophilicity, and water repellency, a minute machine part, an abrasion resistant coat for a magnetic head, an electrostatic chuck, a sliding member material, an abrasion resistant coat of a die and mending the abraded and chipped parts thereof, an insulating coat of an electrostatic motor, an artificial bone, an artificial dental root, a condenser, an electronic circuit part, an oxygen sensor, an oxygen pump, a sliding part of a valve, a distortion gauge, a pressure-sensitive sensor, a piezoelectric actuator, a piezoelectric transformer, a piezoelectric buzzer, a piezoelectric filter, an optical shutter, an automobile knock sensor, a supersonic sensor, an infrared sensor, an antivibration plate, a cutting machining tool, a surface coat of a copying machine drum, a polycrystalline solar cell, a dye sensitization type solar cell, a surface coat of a kitchen knife or a knife, the ball of a ball point pen, a temperature sensor, the insulation coat of a display, a superconductor thin film, a Josephson element, a super plastic structure body, a ceramic heating element, a microwave dielectric, a water-repellent coat, an antireflection film, a heat ray reflecting film, a UV absorbing film, an inter-metal dielectric layer (IMD), a shallow trench isolation (STI), and the like.

[Background Art and the Disadvantages]

Among the so-called composite materials, those composite materials which are composed of such brittle materials as ceramics and the like have been developed as structural materials or functional materials, and encompass conventional rather macroscopic materials with particles, fibers, and the like dispersed in the matrices thereof and recent composite mesoscopic materials and nanocomposite materials designed for the composite formation on the crystal level, the recent ones being highlighted. The nanocomposite materials include the intra-crystal nanocomposite type in which nanosize crystals of other materials are introduced either into the interior of a grain or into the grain boundary, and the nano-nanocomposite type in which nanosize crystals of different materials are mixed. Some nanocomposite materials are expected

to display hitherto unknown characteristics, and related research papers have been published.

In NEW CERAMICS (1997; No. 2), there is found a description that a raw material is produced in which the ultra-fine particles made of zirconia surround the particles of an alumina raw powder, and the raw material thus produced is sintered to yield a nanocomposite.

In New Ceramics (in Japanese) (1998, Vol. 11, No. 5), there is found a description that a composite powder is produced by depositing Ag particles or Pt particles on the surface of a PZT raw powder in such a way that the surface of ceramic fine particles undergoes a chemical process such as the electroless plating method, and the composite powder thus obtained is sintered to yield a nanocomposite.

Additionally, in New Ceramics (in Japanese) (1998, Vol. 11, No. 5), there is found a description that as the materials for use in preparing nanocomposites, there can be cited $\text{Al}_{2.0}\text{O}_{3.0}/\text{Ni}$, $\text{Al}_{2.0}\text{O}_{3.0}/\text{Co}$, $\text{Zr}_{2.0}\text{O}_{2.0}/\text{Ni}$, $\text{Zr}_{2.0}\text{O}_{2.0}/\text{SiC}$, $\text{BaTiO}_{3.0}/\text{SiC}$, $\text{BaTiO}_{3.0}/\text{Ni}$, ZnO/NiO , PZT/Ag , and the like, and the sintering of these materials gives nanocomposites.

The nanocomposites disclosed in these articles are all obtained by sintering, which induces the grain growth so that the grain size tends to become coarse and large, and accordingly there occurs such a limitation that the sintering does not lead to oxidation; additionally, there is involved the heating process, which does not permit the direct coating of nanocomposite materials onto low-melting point materials. The segregation layer is formed frequently in the grain boundary, and hence there is found a degradation of the freedom in the sense that the crystal particle size control becomes impractical, leading to coarse and large particles in the case where there is large difference in mixing ratio of different powders.

On the contrary to the above described nanocomposites which are obtained by sintering, in Materials Integration (2000, Vol. 13, No. 4), there is found a description that a variety of Cr/CrO_x nanocomposite thin films can be obtained by the reactive low-voltage magnetron sputtering method with a Cr target under the condition that the O_2 partial pressure is varied. According to this method, however, it is impossible to conduct the nanosize crystal deposition of mixed fine particles of different types in the form of dispersed particles instead of in the form of laminated layers.

On the other hand, as the recent novel methods of coating film formation, there have been known the gas deposition method (Seichirou Kashu, Kinzoku (Metals, in Japanese), January, 1989) and the electrostatic fine particle coating method (Ikawa et al., Preprint (in Japanese) for the Science Lecture Meeting, Autumn Convention, Precision Machine Society, Showa 52 (1977)). The fundamental principle of the former method is as follows: the fine particles of metals, ceramics, and the like are converted into aerosols by gas agitation, and accelerated through a

fine nozzle so that a part of the kinetic energy is converted into heat when colliding with the substrate, which leads to the sintering found either among the particles or between the substrate and particles. The fundamental principle of the latter method is as follows: the fine particles are charged, accelerated in a gradient of electric field, and the subsequent sintering involves the use of the heat generated in bombardment in a similar manner to that in the former method.

In this connection, as the preceding techniques in which the above described gas deposition method is applied to mixed fine particles of different types, there have been known the techniques disclosed in Japanese Patent Publication No. 3-14512 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 59-80361), Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 59-87077, Japanese Patent Publication No. 64-11328 (Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 61-209032), and Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 6-116743.

In the contents proposed in the above Japanese Patent Publications, the different types of fine particles are based on such metals (ductile materials) as Ag, Ni, Fe and the like; namely, no specific suggestions are found therein with respect to the formation of the composites of different more than one types of ceramics (brittle materials).

Additionally, the techniques described above take as their fundamental principle the film formation composed of mixed fine particles through melting or partially melting the raw material ultra-fine particles, but without using adhesive agents, so that there are involved such auxiliary heating devices as an infrared heating device and the like.

On the other hand, no nanocomposite was cited therein, but the present inventors proposed a method for producing the films of ultra-fine particles, excluding heating with heating measures, in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2000-212766. In the technique disclosed in this Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2000-212766, a structure body is formed through promoting the mutual bonding of the ultra-fine particles in such a way that the ultra-fine particles of 10 nm to 5 .mu.m in particle size are irradiated with an ion beam, an atomic beam, a molecular beam, a low-temperature plasma, or the like, in order to activate the ultra-fine particles without melting thereof and blow them onto a substrate at a rate of 3 m/sec to 300 m/sec.

The above described prior arts can be summarized as follows: the prior composites referred to as nanocomposites are obtained by sintering almost without exception, and the sintering is inevitably accompanied by the crystal grain growth, leading to the larger average grain size of the composites as compared to that of the raw material fine particles, and hence inducing the difficulty in obtaining such composites as excellent in strength and denseness; in this connection, a proposal has been made for suppressing the crystal grain growth, but the fact is that there is found some limitation to the types of raw materials to which the proposal is applicable.

Furthermore, even a method of coating film formation with fine particles involving no sintering needs some kind of surface activation procedure, almost no considerations are given to the ceramics, and exactly no reference is made to the nanocomposites composed of more than one types of brittle materials such as ceramics and the like.

[Means for Solving the Disadvantages]

The present inventors have been engaged in the subsequent check and confirmation investigation on the technique disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2000-212766. Consequently, the present inventors have been successful in revealing that there is definite difference in behavior between metals (ductile materials) and brittle materials including ceramics and metalloids.

More specifically, as for the brittle materials, the structure bodies were able to be formed without using the irradiation of the ion beam, atomic beam, molecular beam, low-temperature plasma, or the like, namely, without using any particular activation procedure, although there was still a problem that the structure bodies were unsatisfactory in the peel strength or partially tended to be peeled off or the density is not uniform, when there were implemented just the fine particle size of 10 nm to 5 μm and bombardment velocity of 3 m/sec to 300 m/sec as specified in the conditions described in the above mentioned patent laid-open.

On the basis of the above described considerations, the present inventors reached the following conclusions.

The ceramics take the atomic bonding condition that the free electrons are scarcely found and the covalent bonding or the ionic bonding is predominant. Thus, they are hard but brittle. The metalloids such as silicon, germanium and the like are also brittle materials without ductility. Accordingly, when mechanical impact is exerted to the brittle materials, for example, the crystal lattice dislocation occurs along such a cleavage plane as the boundary face of the crystallites, or the fracture occurs. Once these phenomena have occurred, there are found such atoms as exposed on the dislocation plane and the fracture plane, although these atoms have been originally located in the interior where they have been bonded to other atoms; namely, a new surface is thus formed. The atomic single layer part on the new surface is forced by the external force to make transition to the exposed and unstable surface state from the originally stable atomic bonding state, giving rise to, in other words, a high surface energy state. This activated surface is bonded to the adjacent surface of the brittle material as well as another adjacent new surface of the brittle material or the adjacent substrate surface, thus being converted to a stable state. Exertion of continuous, external mechanical impact makes this phenomenon to occur continuously, and the accompanying repeated distortion and fracture of the fine particles lead to

the joining development, densifying the thereby formed structure body. Thus, the structure bodies of the brittle materials are formed.

The present invention has been perfected on the basis of the idea that since as described above the formation of new surfaces in the brittle materials makes it possible to form the structure bodies, a brittle material can be taken as a combination of a constituent material and a binder, and hence a composite structure body can be formed with more than one types of brittle materials, the composite structure body thus formed being expected to have hitherto unknown characteristics.

The microscopic structure of the composite structure bodies involved in the present invention formed on the basis of the above described knowledge is obviously different from that of the structure bodies obtained by the conventional production methods.

More specifically, in the constitution of the structure bodies involved in the present invention, there are dispersed the crystals of the brittle materials such as ceramics, metalloids, and the like, and the crystals and/or microstructures (the amorphous grain ascribable to the structure of the raw material fine particles or the flake structures definitely different from segregation layers) of the brittle materials other than the brittle materials; and the portion composed of the brittle material crystals (the portions other than the microstructures) is polycrystalline, while the crystals constituting the polycrystalline portions substantially lack the crystalline orientations, and the boundary face between the crystals substantially has no boundary layers composed of glassy substances.

Additionally, a composite structure body is formed through formation of the above described structure body on a substrate surface, and in this case a portion of the structure body becomes the anchor portion biting the substrate surface.

Here are explained the technical terms important for the purpose of understanding the present invention as follows.

(Polycrystal)

In the present specification, this term means a structure body which is formed through the joining and agglomeration of crystallites. A crystallite alone substantially constitutes a crystal, the size of which is 5 nm or more. However, there rarely occur the case in which fine particles are incorporated, without undergoing fracture, into the structure body, and the like cases; nevertheless, the structure bodies in these cases substantially can be regarded as polycrystalline.

(Crystalline Orientation)

In the present specification, this term means the orientation of the crystal axes in a polycrystalline structure body, and the estimation as to whether the orientation is present or absent is made by reference to the JCPDS (ASTM) data which was prepared as the standard data by the powder X-ray analysis and the like of the powders that were regarded as substantially lacking the orientation.

In the present specification, the substantial absence of the orientation refers to the following condition: when the 100% intensities are allotted to the respective intensities of the main three diffraction peaks in the above reference data that cite the material constituting the brittle material crystals in the structure body, and the intensity of the strongest main peak in the same brittle material in the structure body is taken to be the same as that of the corresponding reference intensity, the intensities of the other two peaks fall within 30% in deviation as compared to the corresponding reference data intensities.

(Boundary Face)

In the present specification, this term means the regions which constitute the mutual boundaries between the crystallites.

(Boundary Layer)

This term means the layer having a certain thickness (usually, a few nm to a few μm) which is situated in the boundary face or in the grain boundary as referred to for the sintered body; this layer usually takes an amorphous structure different from the crystal structure found in a crystal particle, and is in some cases accompanied by the impurity segregation.

(Anchor Portion)

In the present specification, this term means the irregularities formed on the interface between the substrate and the structure body; in particular, this term means the irregularities formed by varying in the structure body formation the surface precision of the original substrate, but does not mean the irregularities formed on the substrate in advance of the structure body formation.

(Average Crystallite Size)

This term means the crystallite size which is calculated by the Scherrer method in the X-ray diffraction method, and is measured and calculated by means of, for example, an MXP-18 apparatus manufactured by MacScience Co.

(Nonstoichiometric deficient portion)

This term means the deviation in this composition ratio caused by the deficiency of one or plural types of elements against the compound of crystal constituting the structure body. For example, the existence of the nonstoichiometric deficient portion can be found by using the substitute characteristic such as the electric resistance ratio.

(Internal Distortion)

This term means the lattice distortion found in the fine particles which is calculated by the Hall method in the X-ray diffractometry, and is represented in percentages as the deviation found by reference to the standard material prepared by full annealing of fine particles.

(Re-agglomeration)

This term means the surface layers formed by sticking/bonding of the fractured/omitted minute fragment (not always identity) of the primary particles of fine particles while the fracturing with the primary particles.

As for the conventional nanocomposites formed by sintering, the crystals are accompanied by the thermal grain growth, and glassy layers are formed as boundary layers particularly in the case where sintering aids are used.

On the other hand, in the structure bodies involved in the present invention, the distortion or fracture goes with the brittle material fine particles among the raw material fine particles, and accordingly the constituent grain of the structure bodies are smaller than the raw material fine particles. With the average fine particle size of, for example, 0.1 to 5 μm as measured by the laser diffraction method or the laser scattering method, the average crystallite size of a formed structure body frequently becomes 100 nm or less, and the polycrystals composed of such fine crystallites are contained in the structures of the structure body. Consequently, there can be formed the dense structure body that is 500 nm or less in the average crystallite size and 99% or more in the denseness degree, 100 nm or less in the average crystallite size and 95% or more in the denseness degree, or 50 nm or less in the average crystallite size and 70% or more in the denseness degree.

Here, the denseness degree (%) is calculated by the formula, the bulk specific gravity

the true specific gravity

 $\times 100(\%)$, where the true specific gravity is based on the literature value or theoretical calculated value and the bulk specific gravity is obtained from the weight and volume values of the structure body.

Additionally, the structure bodies involved in the present invention are characterized in that: the structure bodies are accompanied by the distortion or fracture induced by such mechanical impact as bombardment and the like so that the crystal shapes flat or thin and long are difficult to exist, and the forms of the involved crystallites can be regarded as nearly particle-like and the aspect ratio nearly amounts to 2.0 or less; and additionally, the structure is ascribable to the rejoining fraction of the fractured fragment particles, and accordingly lack the crystal orientation and are almost dense, so that the structure bodies are excellent in such mechanical and chemical properties as hardness, abrasion resistance, corrosion resistance, and the like.

Additionally, in the present invention, it takes a very short time to cover from the fracturing and to the rejoining of the brittle material fine particles, so that at the time of joining the atomic diffusion hardly occurs in the vicinity of the surface of the fine fragment particles. Accordingly, the atomic disposition in the boundary face between the crystallites of the structure body is free from disturbance, and the boundary layers (glassy layers), namely, the molten layers, are hardly formed, or are 1 nm or less even if formed. Thus, the structure bodies display the characteristic excellent in such chemical properties as the corrosion resistance and the like.

Additionally, the structure bodies involved in the present invention include those structure bodies which have the nonstoichiometric deficient portion, (for example, deficient in oxygen) in the vicinity of the boundary face constituting the structure body. As a nonstoichiometric deficient portion, here can be cited the portion ascribable to the oxygen deficiency in the metal oxide which constitutes a composite structure body.

Additionally, as the substrates on the surfaces of which the structure bodies involved in the present invention are formed, there can be cited glass, metals, ceramics, metalloids, or organic compounds; and as the brittle materials, there can be cited the oxides including aluminum oxide, titanium oxide, zinc oxide, tin oxide, iron oxide, zirconium oxide, yttrium oxide, chromium oxide, hafnium oxide, beryllium oxide, magnesium oxide, silicon oxide, and the like; diamond and the carbides including boron carbide, silicon carbide, titanium carbide, zirconium carbide, vanadium carbide, niobium carbide, chromium carbide, tungsten carbide, molybdenum carbide, tantalum carbide, and the like; the nitrides including boron nitride, titanium nitride, aluminum nitride, silicon nitride, niobium nitride, tantalum nitride, and the like; boron and the borides including aluminum boride, silicon boride, titanium boride, zirconium boride, vanadium boride, niobium boride, tantalum boride, chromium boride, molybdenum boride, tungsten boride, and the like; or the mixtures and the multicomponent-system solid solutions of these substances; the piezoelectric/pyroelectric ceramics including barium titanate, lead titanate, lithium titanate, strontium titanate, aluminum titanate, PZT, PLZT, and the like; the tough ceramics including sialon, cermet, and the like; the biocompatible ceramics including hydroxy apatite, calcium phosphate, and the like; silicon, germanium, and the metalloid substances composed of silicon

or germanium doped with various dopants including phosphorus and the like; and the semiconducting compounds including gallium arsenide, indium arsenide, cadmium arsenide, and the like. Furthermore, in addition to these inorganic materials, there can be cited the brittle organic materials including hard vinyl chloride, polycarbonate, acryl, and the like.

Additionally, the thickness of the structure body in the present invention (exclusive of the substrate thickness) can be made to be 50 μm or more. The surface of the above mentioned structure body is not flat and smooth microscopically. The flat and smooth surface is required, when an abrasion-resistant sliding member is produced, for example, by coating the surface of a piece of metal with a highly hard composite structure body (a nanocomposite), and accordingly surface grinding or polishing is necessary in a later process. In such application, it is desirable that the deposition height of the composite structure body is made to be of the order of 50 μm or more. When surface grinding is conducted, it is desirable that the deposition height is 50 μm or more because of the mechanical restriction imposed on the grinding machine; in this case, the grinding of several tens of micrometers is carried out, so that the surface of 50 μm or less comes to form a flat and smooth thin film.

Additionally, in some cases, it is desirable that the thickness of the structure body is 500 μm or more. The present invention takes as an object not only the production of the composite structure body film which is formed on a substrate made of a metallic material or the like and has the functions such as the high hardness, abrasion resistance, heat resistance, corrosion resistance, chemical resistance, electric insulation and the like, but also the production of the composite structure body which can be used alone. Although the mechanical strengths of the ceramic materials are diverse, a structure body of 500 μm or more in thickness can give the strength sufficient for application to, for example, the ceramic substrates and the like, as far as the qualities of the materials are properly chosen.

For example, it is possible to produce a mechanical component made of a composite material at room temperature in the following way: the composite material ultra-fine particles are deposited on the surface of a sheet of metal foil placed on the substrate holder to form a dense structure body which is 500 μm or more in thickness all over the structure body or partially, and subsequently the metal foil part is removed or some other like process is performed.

On the other hand, the method for manufacturing the composite structure body in the application concerned forms the structure body composed of the structures in which the crystals and/or microstructures of the brittle material are dispersed, in the following manner: the fine particles of more than one types of the brittle materials are simultaneously or separately bombarded against the substrate surface at high velocities; the brittle material fine particles are distorted or fractured by the bombardment impact; the mutual rejoining of the fine particles is made through the intermediary of the newly generated active surface formed by the distortion or fracture, and

furthermore the anchor portion biting the substrate surface is formed to join with the substrate.

As the procedures in which the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials are bombarded at high velocities, there can be cited the carrier gas method, the method accelerating the fine particles by use of the electrostatic force, the thermal spraying method, the cluster ion beam method, the cold spray method, and the like. Among these methods, the carrier gas method is conventionally referred to as the gas deposition method, and is a method for forming a structure body in which the aerosol containing the fine particles of metals, metalloids, or ceramics is blown off from a nozzle and is sprayed at a high speed onto the substrate to deposit the fine particles on the substrate, and there is thereby formed a deposition layer of the green compacts having the same composition as that of the fine particles and the like layers. Here, among these methods, in particular, the method for forming structure bodies directly on the substrate will be referred to as the ultra-fine particles beam deposition method; in the present specification, the manufacturing method involved in the present invention will be referred to as this name in what follows.

When the aerosol of the material fine particles is bombarded by use of the ultra-fine particles beam deposition method, the mixed powder aerosol may be prepared beforehand, or the aerosols of the individual materials may be generated and bombarded either independently or simultaneously while varying the mixing ratio of the aerosol. The last case is preferable in the sense that a structure body having a declined composition can be easily formed.

The method for manufacturing the composite structure bodies involved in another embodiment of the present invention includes the method in which the composite fine particles are formed through the process of coating the surface of the brittle material fine particles with another brittle material, and subsequently the composite fine particles are bombarded against a substrate surface at a high velocity.

As the method for coating the surface of the fine particles with another brittle material, the procedure mimicking the PVD, CVD, or mechanical alloying method may be adopted, or it may be sufficient that ultra-fine particles further smaller in particle size are only made to adhere by kneading or the like onto the surface of the fine particles.

The method for manufacturing the composite structure bodies involved in yet another embodiment of the present invention forms a structure body comprising the structure in which brittle material crystals and/or microstructures are dispersed on the anchor portion in the following manner: the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials are arranged on the substrate surface; a mechanical impact is exerted to the brittle material fine particles, and the brittle material fine particles are deformed or fractured by the impact; the mutual rejoining of the fine particles is made through the intermediary of the active surface newly generated by the

distortion or fracture, and furthermore the anchor portion partially biting the substrate surface is formed in the boundary portion between the substrate and/or the brittle material fine particles to join with the substrate; and there is thus formed the structure body in which the brittle material crystals and/or microstructures are dispersed on the anchor portion.

In this case, similarly to the above described case, there may be used the composite fine particles which are formed by coating the surface of the brittle material fine particles with another brittle material.

As described above, the present invention has paid attention to the active surface newly generated by the distortion or fracture induced when the impact is exerted to the brittle material fine particles. In this connection, if the internal distortion of the brittle material fine particles is small, the brittle material fine particles are hardly distorted or fractured when bombarded; on the contrary, if the internal distortion of the brittle material fine particles is large, large crack is induced for cancellation of the internal distortion, accordingly the brittle material fine particles undergo fracture/agglomeration before bombardment, and the bombardment of the agglomerates thus formed against the substrate hardly leads to the formation of the newly generated surface. Consequently, for the purpose of obtaining the composite structure body involved in the present invention, the particle size and the bombardment velocity of the brittle material fine particles are of course important, but it is even more important to provide the brittle material fine particles as the raw material with the internal distortion falling within the prescribed range. The most preferable internal distortion is such a distortion as is increased up to the limit immediately beyond which the crack comes to be formed, but such fine particles with some crack formed but with some remaining internal distortion can be satisfactorily used.

In the method for manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention (the ultra-fine particles beam deposition method), it is preferable to use the brittle material fine particles which have the average particle size ranging from 0.1 to 5 μm and the large internal distortion formed beforehand. The velocity of the above particles falls within the range preferably from 50 to 450 m/s, more preferably from 150 to 400 m/s. These conditions are intimately related to whether the newly generated surface is formed when the particles are bombarded against the substrate and in other like cases; the particle size smaller than 0.1 μm is too small and hardly induces the fracture or distortion. When the average particle size exceeds 5 μm , the fracture occurs partially, but substantially there comes to operate the film abrasion effect ascribable to etching, and it is sometimes the case that the process goes no further than the deposition of the green compacts made of the fine particles without causing fracture. Similarly, when a structure body is formed with this average particle size, there has been observed the phenomenon in which the green compacts are mixed in the structure body at the particle velocity of 50 m/s or less, and it has been found that at the particle velocity of 450 m/s or more, the etching effect becomes appreciable and the structure body formation efficiency becomes degraded.

One of the characteristics of the method of manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention consists in that the manufacturing can be conducted at room temperature or at relatively low temperatures, which permits the choice of such low-melting point materials as resins as the substrate.

However, a heating process may be added to the method of the present invention. The formation of the structure body of the present invention is characterized in that in the structure body formation, there hardly occurs the heat generation at the time of the distortion/fracture formation of the fine particles, and nevertheless a dense structure body is formed; the structure body can be formed satisfactorily in the environment of room temperature. Accordingly, although heat is not necessarily required to be involved in the structure body formation, it is conceivable that the heating of the substrate or the heating of the environment for forming the structure body is conducted for the purpose of drying the fine particles and removal of the surface adsorbates, heating for activation, aiding the anchor portion formation, alleviation of thermal stress between the structure body and the substrate in consideration of the environment in which the structure body is used, removal of the substrate surface adsorbates, and improvement of the efficiency of the structure body formation. Even if this is the case, it is not necessary to apply such a high temperature as inducing the melting, sintering, or extreme softening of the fine particles and substrate. Additionally, it is also possible to conduct the structure control of the crystal by the heat processing at the temperatures not higher than the melting point of the brittle material, after the formation of the structure body composed of the polycrystalline brittle material.

Additionally, it is preferable to implement under a reduced pressure the method of manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention, in order to maintain to some extent of time the activity of the newly generated surface formed on the raw material fine particles.

Additionally, when the method of manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention is embodied on the basis of the ultra-fine particles beam deposition method, it is possible to control the electric characteristics, mechanical characteristics, chemical characteristics, optical characteristics, and magnetic characteristics of the structure body by controlling the element deficient quantities in the compounds constituting the structure body composed of the brittle material and the oxygen concentration in the structure body, and forming the oxygen deficient layer in the vicinity of the boundary face between the crystal grain when the metal oxide exist in the structure body through controlling the type and/or partial pressure of the carrier gas such as oxygen.

In other words, if such an oxide as aluminum oxide is used as the raw material fine particles in the ultra-fine particles beam deposition method, and the structure body is formed by suppressing

the partial pressure of the oxygen used in this method, it is conceivable that the oxygen escapes into the gas phase from the surface of the fine fragment particles when the fine particles undergo fracture to yield the fine fragment particles, and accordingly the oxygen deficiency occurs on the surface phase. There occurs thereafter the mutual rejoining of the fine fragment particles, and consequently the oxygen deficient layer is formed in the vicinity of the boundary face between the crystal grain. Additionally, the element to be made deficient is not limited to oxygen, but may include nitrogen, boron, carbon, and the like; the deficiency of these elements is achieved by the nonequilibrium state partition of the elemental quantities between the gaseous and solid phases or by the reaction-induced elimination of the elements, through controlling the partial pressures of the particular types of gases.

The ultra-fine particles beam deposition method which changes the type and the partial pressures of those gas control the volume inherent resistance value of ceramic structure body, and hardness, corrosion resistance, transparency and the like. For example, in case of aluminum oxide, optically clouded structure body is obtained when the partial pressure of oxygen is decreased, and transparent structure body is obtained when the partial pressure of oxygen is increased.

Additionally, the apparatus for manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention is characterized in that the apparatus comprises an aerosol generator for generating the aerosol which is generated by dispersing the fine particles of more than one types of brittle materials in the gas, a nozzle for spraying the aerosol against the substrate, and a classifier which classifies the brittle material fine particles in the aerosol.

Additionally, the apparatus for manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention is characterized in that the apparatus comprises a disintegrating machine which disintegrates the agglomeration of the brittle material fine particles in the aerosol, instead of the classifier or in combination with the classifier.

Furthermore, the apparatus for manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the another embodiment is characterized in that the apparatus comprises a coating unit which forms the composite fine particles by coating the surface of the brittle material fine particles with one or more types of brittle materials different from the above described fine particles of the brittle materials, an aerosol generator, and a nozzle for spraying the aerosol.

It is possible to provide a disintegrating machine, between the above described aerosol generator and the above described nozzle, which disintegrates the agglomeration of the above described composite fine particles in the aerosol and/or a classifier which classifies the above described composite fine particles in the above described aerosol.

Additionally, it is also possible to provide a distortion imparting unit which impresses the internal distortion to the brittle material fine particles or the composite fine particles.

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Example 1

There was prepared beforehand the mixed powder composed of the aluminum oxide fine particle powder of 0.4 μm in average particle size with the distortion imparted by a planetary mill and the silicon oxide fine particle powder of 0.5 μm in average particle size with the distortion similarly imparted by a planetary mill, and with this powder, a structure body was formed on an iron substrate by means of the ultra-fine particles beam deposition method. FIG. 1 shows the illustration drawing of the used ultra-fine particles beam deposition method. FIG. 2 shows the structure body surface SEM photograph taken immediately after the formation. FIG. 3 shows the results of the element distribution of aluminum, silicon, and oxygen in this location measured by an EPMA.

FIG. 1 shows apparatus 10 for manufacturing a composite structure body, in which apparatus a nitrogen gas cylinder 101 is connected, through a carrier pipe 102, to an aerosol generator 103, a disintegrating machine 104 is arranged at a position downstream thereof, and a classifier 105 is arranged at a position further downstream thereof. A nozzle 107, arranged in a structure body formation chamber 106, is arranged at one end of the carrier pipe 102 communicatively connecting these above described devices. In front of the opening of the nozzle 107, there is arranged a substrate 108 made of iron which is mounted on an XY stage 109. The structure body formation chamber 106 is connected to a vacuum pump 110. The aerosol generator 103 stores internally the mixed powder composed of the aluminum oxide fine particles and silicon oxide fine particles.

Description is made below of the operation of the apparatus 10 for manufacturing a composite structure body which apparatus comprises the above described configuration. The mixed powder is prepared by mixing the aluminum oxide fine particles and silicon oxide fine particles both imparted the internal distortion by pulverizing beforehand with a planetary mill that is the distortion imparting unit unshown in the figure, and the mixed powder is put into the aerosol generator 103. The nitrogen gas is introduced, from the nitrogen gas cylinder 101 through the carrier pipe 102, into the aerosol generator 103 charged with the mixed powder 103a, and the aerosol generator 103 is operated to generate the aerosol containing the aluminum oxide fine particles and silicon oxide fine particles. The fine particles in the aerosol are agglomerated to form the secondary particles of about 100 μm , which are introduced through the carrier pipe 102 into the disintegrating machine 104 to be converted to the aerosol containing the primary

particles in a large fraction. The aerosol is thereafter introduced into the classifier 105 to remove the coarse secondary particles in the aerosol remaining undisintegrated by the disintegrating machine 104, so that the aerosol is converted to the aerosol further enriched in the primary particles, and then guided out therefrom. Then, the aerosol is sprayed at a high speed against the substrate 105 from the nozzle 107 arranged in the structure body formation chamber 106. While bombarding the aerosol against the substrate 108 arranged in front of the nozzle 107, the substrate 108 is fluctuated with an XY stage 109 to form a thin film structure body over a certain area on the substrate 108. The structure body formation chamber 106 is placed in an environment with a reduced pressure of about 10 kPa provided by a vacuum pump 110.

By doing above, a dense composite structure body was formed, in which structure body the elemental ratio between aluminum and silicon was 75% and 25%. In these results, the crystallites of 100 nm or less are dispersed independently with no orientation condition, and no solid solution layer composed of aluminum oxide and silicon oxide has been confirmed in the vicinity of the interface. Additionally, the anchor layer portion was formed in the interface between the composite structure body and the substrate 105 by bombardment impact of mixed powder fine particles to substrate 108.

Incidentally, among the above described structure body formation processes, the aerosol generator 103, disintegrating machine 104, and classifier 105 may be either of the separated type or of the integrated type. When the performance of the disintegrating machine is sufficiently satisfactory, no classifier is needed. Additionally, as for the mill pulverization of two types of fine particles, the mill pulverization may be conducted with the powder mixed beforehand, or the two types of fine particles may be pulverized separately for each type, and then mixed together. When the respective fine particles are extremely different in hardness, the composite fine particles may be prepared as follows: the mill pulverization after mixing impresses the internal distortion and simultaneously crushes the softer fine particles, and the crushed softer fine particles coat the surface of the harder fine particles. In other words, this case leads to the structure body formation based on the composite fine particles. Of course, it is possible to apply the composite fine particles prepared by some another method to this apparatus for manufacturing a composite structure body formation; the composite fine particles can be prepared beforehand not only by the mill pulverization but also by a variety of methods such as the PVD, CVD, plating, sol-gel methods, and the like.

It is preferable that the composition of the structure body can be controlled without restraint because the type of the brittle material fine particles is not limited to two types, but many types can be easily mixed together and the mixing ratio can be optionally specified. This is also the case for the composite fine particles. The gas used is not limited to nitrogen gas, but can be arbitrarily argon, helium, or the like; it is possible that the oxygen concentration in the structure

body is varied by mixing oxygen with these cited gases.

Example 2

FIG. 4 shows the Example 2 of apparatus for manufacturing the composite structure body; in the apparatus 20 for manufacturing the composite structure body, argon gas cylinders 201a, 201b are connected, through carrier pipes 202a, 202b, respectively to aerosol generators 203a, 203b, disintegrating machines 204a, 204b are arranged at further downstream positions, classifiers 205a, 205b are arranged at further downstream positions, and aerosol concentration measurement instruments 206a, 206b are arranged at further downstream positions. The carrier pipes 202a, 202b communicatively connecting these are merged at positions downstream of the aerosol concentration measurement instruments 206a, 206b, and communicatively connected to a nozzle 208 arranged in a structure body formation chamber 207.

In front of the opening of the nozzle 208, there is arranged a metallic substrate 209 mounted on an XY stage 210. The structure body formation chamber 207 is connected to a vacuum pump 211. Additionally, the aerosol generators 203a, 203b and the aerosol concentration measurement instruments 206a, 206b are wired to a controller 212. The aerosol generators 203a, 203b store internally fine particles of different types of brittle materials of the order of 0.5 μm in average particle size.

Description is made below of the operation of the apparatus 20 for manufacturing a composite structure body which apparatus comprises the above described configuration. The brittle material fine particles, both imparted the internal distortion by pulverizing beforehand with a planetary mill that is the distortion imparting unit unshown in the figure, are respectively put into the aerosol generators 203a, 203b. Then, the valves of the argon gas cylinders 201a, 201b are opened and the respective argon gases are introduced into the aerosol generators 203a, 203b, through the carrier pipes 202a, 202b. Receiving the control of the controller 212, the aerosol generators 203a, 203b operate to respectively generate the aerosols. The fine particles are agglomerated in these aerosols to form the secondary particles of the order of 100 μm , which are introduced into the disintegrating machines 204a, 204b and are converted to the aerosols enriched in the primary particles. Subsequently, the aerosols are introduced into the classifiers 205a, 205b to remove the coarse secondary particles in the aerosols remaining undisintegrated by the disintegrating machines 204a, 204b so that the aerosols are converted to the aerosols further enriched in the primary particles, and then guided out therefrom. Then, these aerosols pass through the aerosol concentration measurement instruments 206a, 206b, where the fine particle concentrations in the aerosols are monitored, and then are merged and sprayed at a high speed against the substrate 209 from the nozzle 207 arranged in the structure body formation chamber 209.

The substrate 209 is fluctuated with the XY stage 210, and accordingly by varying the bombardment position of the aerosol against the substrate 209 from moment to moment, the fine particles are bombarded against a wide area on the substrate 209. The brittle material fine particles 213a, 213b are crushed or distorted when colliding, and these particles are joined to form a dense structure body in which the crystals of different types of brittle materials are present as independently dispersed with the crystal size not larger than the average particle size of the primary particles, namely, with the nanometer size. Additionally the interior of the structure body formation chamber 211 is evacuated with the vacuum pump 211, and the internal pressure is controlled to take a constant value of about 10 kPa.

Thus, on the substrate 209 is formed the structure body in which the different types of brittle materials are dispersed; in this case the results monitored on the aerosol concentration measurement instrument 206a, 206b are analyzed by the controller 212, and fed back to the aerosol generators 203a, 203b, to control the generated amount and concentration of the aerosol so that the abundance ratios of the different types of brittle materials in the structure body can be controlled either to be constant or to be inclined. In the case where such inclined materials are manufactured, the abundance ratios are easily varied either along the deposition height direction or the abundance distributions are easily varied along the surface direction of the substrate 209, in conjunction with the XY stage. Additionally, it is also possible to form a structure body by spraying a plurality of types of aerosols, without being merged, through separate nozzles. In this case, there is obtained a structure body composed of a thin deposited layer, and the inclination generation is easily carried out by controlling the thickness. Additionally, the fine particles stored internally in the aerosol generators may be either composite fine particles or mixed fine particles of a plurality of brittle materials; there only have to be chosen the internal storage modes suitable for achieving the target structure of the structure body. The gas composition is also optional.

[Effect of the Invention]

As described above, the composite structure body involved in the present invention can provide a novel material having properties that cannot otherwise be provided, because in the composite structure body, more than one types of brittle materials are combined to form a composite material at the nano level size.

Additionally, according to the method for manufacturing the composite structure body involved in the present invention, not only the film type but also arbitrary, 3-dimensional shaped composite structure bodies can be manufactured, so that the application of these structure bodies can be extended to all fields.

Furthermore, in the formation of the composite structure body on a substrate, it is possible to choose arbitrary substrates because the processes involved are conducted at low temperatures (about room temperature), but are not involved in heating, sintering, or the like.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

FIG. 1 shows a diagram illustrating an apparatus for manufacturing a structure body in Example 1;

FIG. 2 shows the SEM image of a structure body composed of aluminum oxide and silicon oxide;

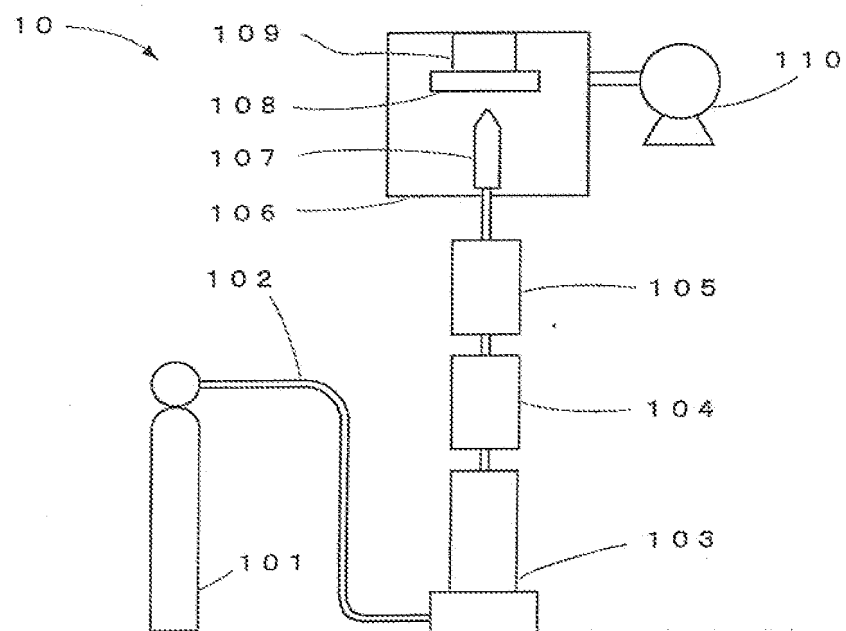
FIG. 3 shows the photographs displaying the results of the element distribution measurement by an EPMA of aluminum, silicon, and oxygen;

FIG. 4 shows a diagram illustrating an apparatus for manufacturing a structure body in Example 2;

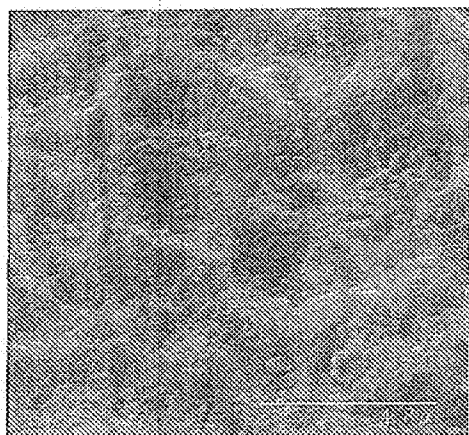
[Explanation of references]

10...Apparatus for manufacturing the composite structure body, 101...Gas cylinder, 102...Carrier pipe, 103...Aerosol generator, 104...Disintegrating machine, 105...Classifier, 106...Structure body formation chamber, 107...Nozzle, 108...Substrate, 109...XY stage, 110...Vacuum pump, 20...Apparatus for manufacturing the composite structure body, 201a, 201b...Gas cylinder, 202a, 202b...Carrier pipe, 203a, 203b...Aerosol generator, 204a, 204b...Disintegrating machine, 205a, 205b...Classifier, 206a, 206b...Aerosol concentration measurement instrument, 207...Structure body formation chamber, 208...Nozzle, 209...Substrate, 210...XY stage, 211...Vacuum pump, 213a, 213b...Brittle materials

【FIG.1】

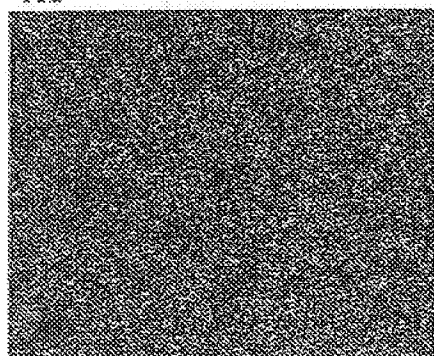


【FIG.2】

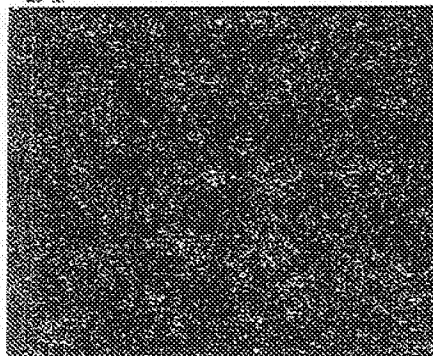


【FIG.3】

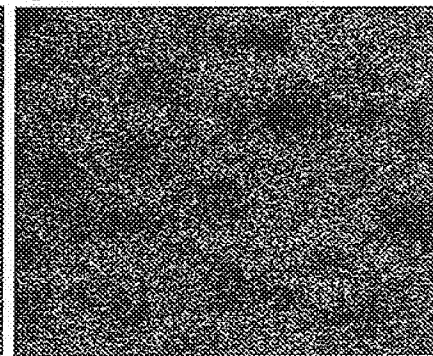
Al



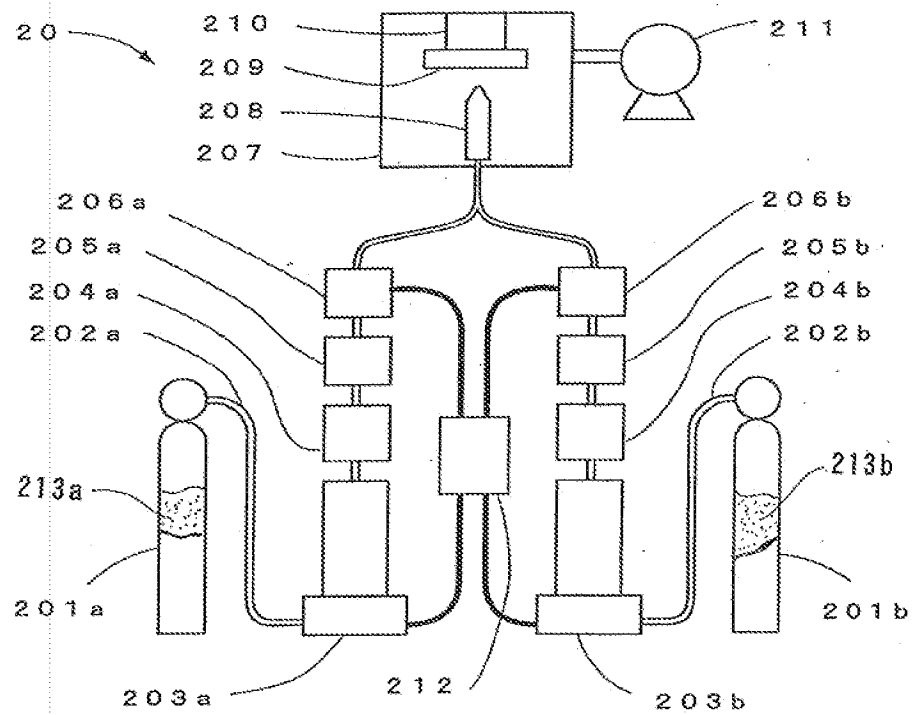
Si



O



【FIG.4】



[Name of Document] ABSTRACT

[Summary]

[Object]

A structure body composed of more than one types of brittle materials is prepared with no heating or firing process, and has novel properties.

[Solving means]

A structure body having the constitution in which the crystals of more than one types of brittle materials such as ceramics, metalloids, and the like are dispersed, the portion composed of the brittle materials is polycrystalline, the crystals constituting the polycrystalline portion substantially lacks the crystalline orientation, and the boundary layers composed of glassy substances are substantially absent in the boundary face between the crystals.

[Selected Figure]

None